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AIRGRAM

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TO : Amembassy TEL AVIV **7168**

FROM : Department of State

SUBJECT : U.S.S. Liberty Claim

REF : Department's A-209, December 19, 1967;
Tel Aviv's 1972 and A-685 of March 18, 1968

DATE:

File in _____
Destroy _____
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There is transmitted herewith a suggested text of a self-explanatory draft note espousing the claim of the Government of the United States against the Government of Israel for losses sustained as a result of physical damage inflicted upon the vessel "U.S.S. Liberty" when it was attacked by Israeli air and naval units on June 8, 1967.

Unless strong objection is perceived the Embassy is requested to present the note to the Government of Israel without delay, inform the Department of the date of presentation, and furnish the Department with a copy of the note.

At the time of delivery of the note the Embassy is requested to inform the Government of Israel that the Government of the United States is prepared to furnish, upon request, documentary evidence in support of the dollar amount expended and detailed estimates prepared by expert appraisers regarding the dollar amount needed to restore the vessel and its equipment to the condition it was in immediately prior to the attack and/or to appoint appropriate experts to discuss fully the physical damages sustained.

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Date: _____

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Drafted by: L:L/G:FAKwiatek:slb

Drafting Date: 6/19/68 Phone No: 3874

Contents and Classification: L - Carl F. Salans

Clearances: NEA/IAI - Mr. Lambakis H - Mr. Leahy P - Mr. Sartch
U.S. Navy (JAG) - *WAC*

DRAFT NOTE

Encl. No. 1

A-437 to Tel Aviv

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Israel and refers to the Embassy's note No. 26 of December 27, 1967, concerning the U.S.S. Liberty. The Embassy has the honor to present in accordance with accepted principles of international law a claim for \$7,644,146 on behalf of the Government of the United States for losses sustained as a result of physical damage inflicted upon the U.S.S. Liberty when it was attacked by Israeli air and naval units on June 8, 1967.

The amount claimed is based upon the amount already expended and estimates of the amount required to restore the U.S.S. Liberty and its equipment to the condition it was in immediately prior to the attack on June 8, 1967.

The Embassy of the United States confidently anticipates on the basis of assurances previously given by the Government of Israel that the Government of Israel will promptly compensate the Government of the United States for the amount claimed.

03:15:07:030